

Scott County Kicker

PHIL A. HAYNER, Publisher.
BENTON, MISSOURI.

Now watch the Japanese proceed grimly to fortify Port Arthur for keeps.

Alexieff, before the war started, informed the czar that Port Arthur could never be taken.

Taking a lesson from Port Arthur, Great Britain may be expected to make a few improvements at Gibraltar.

Miss Ames, of North Easton, Mass., has the finest collection of orchids on the continent. It is worth around \$400,000.

Rudolf Genee, 80 years old, an eminent German playwright and historian, has been granted a pension of \$500 a year by the Kaiser.

A single policeman in New York city has in two years' time turned over to the city 225 pistols taken from men who were illegally carrying them.

Gov. Douglas, of Massachusetts, has on his staff five generals, eight colonels and lieutenant colonels and five majors, not to mention the captains and lieutenants.

After a good deal of hesitation and some refusals, a poverty-stricken Italian count has agreed to marry one of those Pittsburgh heiresses for \$20,000 down and \$10,000 a year.

Tom Watson, late popular candidate for president, had a narrow escape as a ghost in a friend's house that took fire. Tom Watson is getting used to narrow escapes—only some of them are not so narrow.

Henry S. Prevost died recently in Lima, Peru. His father was one of the first Americans to establish business in Peru, having come there more than 70 years ago. Mr. Prevost continued his father's business and had extensive plantation interests in the country.

Appropos of the Kaiser's latest performance as a conductor of a new opera at a rehearsal in Berlin, his patronage of music is something as magnificent as are his excursions into the realms of art, mechanics and chemistry. "I do not think many Germans know," said the emperor at a dinner at Count von Buelow's a few evenings ago, "that I spent last year out of my private income \$1,000,000 on opera and theaters."

It is said there have been 10 bank failures in Iowa the last year, with losses of over \$12,000,000. Eight of the presidents of these banks committed suicide and the whereabouts of some of the others are not known. The story of frenzied rural finance is told in the statement that the defalcations reported were generally due to losses in stock or grain speculations. Evidently there are more rakes than the Chadwick one to bank failure.

Two months ago the residence of John Ludwig, at Bucyrus, O., was burned. In the house was a tin box containing \$500 in paper money. The money was burned to ashes, which remained in the box. The box and contents were sent to the government for redemption and last week Mr. Ludwig was notified that he would be paid all but about \$5 of the amount he claimed was in the box. The money belonged to the lodge of which Ludwig is treasurer.

David R. Francis, president of the St. Louis Exposition company, is probably the most elaborately decorated man in America. Kings, princes and potentates have shown their respect upon him until, if he were not at all once, he would glitter like a diamond wagon. Among the lot are the red eagle of Prussia, the crown of Italy, the Leopard I. of Belgium, the sun and lion of Persia, the double dragon of China and the cross of the Legion of Honor of France.

Hiram Cronk, sole survivor of the war of 1812, says in an interview that he feels much obliged to the New York leaders who are arranging to give him a fine funeral and bury him in Cypress Hills cemetery. Brooklyn, Mr. Cronk, who is 104 years old, is feeling very well indeed. He says he has no desire to sit behind the "grim rider on the pale horse" of which the aldermen spoke, and he begs leave to remind them that he fought in the infantry and never was a cavalryman.

The lion and the royal Bengal tiger are the largest and most formidable members of the cat family and men who have hunted both usually regard the tiger as being the more ferocious and dangerous beast of the two. There is not much difference between their average sizes. Both usually weigh from 300 to 500 pounds and measure from 8 to 10 feet from tip of nose to tip of tail and both have massive muscular development, the tiger being, perhaps, on the whole, the more powerful of the two.

How little we really know about anything is illustrated by cotton. A few months ago there was a great cotton panic, in which untold millions were made and lost by speculators because of what was said to be an incurable shortage in the crop. We were told that there was less hope in the future crops than in the past, and the assertion was backed up by unanswerable arguments. Now we are dumbfounded to read that the planters have cotton to burn and are actually burning it in large quantities in order to keep the price up.

Gen. Nogi, the conqueror of Port Arthur, is one of the most notable soldiers in the armies of the mikado. He is of an old Samurai family. The military advisers of the mikado recognized fully the enormous difficulties which confronted the troops which were intrusted with the task of reducing the strongest fortress, except, perhaps, Gibraltar, in the world, and in looking over the army list selected Nogi for the high honor of commanding the besiegers. He is a typical Japanese soldier, taciturn as was Gen. Grant.

SENDS WORD BY KITE EXPRESS

Russians Told of the Fall of Port Arthur by Means of Letters Attached to Kites by Japs.

Huanchan, Jan. 10.—(Via Mukden.) The news of the fall of Port Arthur was received here first unofficially from the Japanese, who let loose numerous paper kites bearing letters and triumphal inscriptions. These kites were picked up by Russian soldiers long before the telegraph gave them the news. The army received the announcement doggedly, regret being expressed that the troops had been unable to relieve the garrison; but confidence is felt that, ultimately, the Russians will be able to push back the Japanese and reach the fortress from the north.

Russian artillery is steadily pounding the section of the Japanese lines west of Sinehpinu and about the villages of Baltoshan and Sinitung.

The Japanese are using balloons and searchlights in efforts to locate Russian batteries which have been causing them great annoyance.

The past two days the Japanese have made two unsuccessful attempts to break through the Russian advance lines.

Gen. Stakeberg, who has been ill, has recovered sufficiently to return to the front.

The weather has been warm and springlike for some days, and overcoats have been discarded by many.

KILLED IN BIG FOUR WRECK.

Ralph C. Roberts, Captain of Illinois University Baseball Team, Killed and Others Injured.

Urbana, Ill., Jan. 10.—Ralph C. Roberts, of Keokuk, Ia., captain of the University of Illinois baseball team, was killed, and several students who were passengers were slightly injured in a wreck on the Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati and St. Louis railroad at Risma Sun, five miles west of here, late Monday afternoon.

The wreck was caused by a dining car of the train leaving the track. None of the injured seriously hurt. Roberts was standing on one step preparing to jump, and was mangled and lived but a few minutes. His body was brought here and his parents notified. He was returning to the university from his home at Keokuk. He was an athlete, popular in the university and a member of the Kappa Sigma fraternity.

LEITER ESTATE A BIG ONE.

The Inheritance Tax Shows the Leiter Wealth in Illinois to Aggregate \$12,445,840.01.

Carbondale, Ill., Jan. 10.—Interesting figures disclosing the extent of the Leiter possessions in Illinois came to light when the Franklin county officials completed the work of determining the amount of the inheritance tax which the Leiter estate must pay to the state of Illinois. According to the Franklin county officials, the total Illinois holdings of the Leiter estate reach \$12,445,840.01. The inheritance tax is \$1,244,584.01, leaving a balance of \$11,201,256.00. The tax on this is \$507,480, divided among the heirs as follows: Mrs. Mary Leiter, widow, \$11,257.57; Joseph Leiter, \$9,440.81; Lady Curzon, \$9,671.43; Mrs. Nancy Campbell, \$1,254.06; Miss Daisy Leiter, \$10, 645.54.

THEIR LAST HOPE GONE.

The United States Supreme Court Decides Adversely to Barrett, Dolan and Garrett.

Washington, Jan. 10.—The motion for leave to file petition for a writ of habeas corpus, filed here last week in the Dolan-Barrett-Garrett naturalization fraud cases from St. Louis, was denied by the United States supreme court.

The effort was the last to secure the freedom of the three St. Louis men. The action of the court closes the last avenue of defense, and the accused trio must serve their terms in the penitentiary.

THE OFFICIAL VOTE CAST.

The Voice of the People Ratified in the Different State Capitals of the Republic.

Washington, Jan. 10.—Monday Theodore Roosevelt, of New York, and Charles W. Fairbanks, of Indiana were formally elected president and vice-president of the United States. In the capitals of the several states in the Union the members of the electoral college chosen at the polls last November gathered and cast the state vote for the republican and democratic tickets as ordained by the people.

Vote of the "Mysterious Stranger."

Jefferson City, Mo., Jan. 10.—The Missouri electors assembled here Monday and cast the 17 votes of the state for Roosevelt and Fairbanks.

To Take Illinois' Vote.

Springfield, Ill., Jan. 10.—The 27 Illinois presidential electors met in the capitol and selected A. J. Neal, of Charleston, official messenger to carry the vote of Illinois to Washington. His selection was made by ballot, as there were several candidates.

Louise Michel Dead.

Paris, Jan. 10.—Louise Michel, prominent as a communist and revolutionary agitator for the last 35 years, is dead at Marseilles of double pneumonia, aged 75 years. She was on a lecture tour.

Just a Matter of Time.

Washington, Jan. 10.—This city and Paris are gossiping over a possible alliance between Miss Alice Roosevelt and the courtly Viscount Charles de Chambrun, a descendant of Lafayette and secretary to the French embassy.

Someone Fed Them Poison.

Burlingame, N. Y., Jan. 10.—In the town of Belvidere, near Olean, Giuseppe Rossi is dead; another man is dying and ten railroad laborers are very sick in a boarding house. Someone has fed them rat poison.

GOV. JOS. W. FOLK'S INaugural ADDRESS

"Aware of the Seriousness of the Duties That Await Me."

MISSOURI NOW ON TRIAL.

Declares the Motto of the State Should be the Guiding Star of Every Official Act.

Gov. Joseph W. Folk's inaugural address, as read in the general assembly, was as follows:

Senators and Representatives:

This is the third time I have stood upon this platform. The first was on a campaign for the democratic nomination, the second, in the dawn of a summer morning in July, in accepting the nomination of my party; and now, for the purpose of taking the oath as governor, I am here again.

Let me first guide me. I have dedicated myself to the service of the people of my state under the sanction of a solemn and sacred trust. I am here to represent the people of Missouri. I am here to represent the people of Missouri. I am here to represent the people of Missouri.

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HUMOROUS COLLINGS.

"He said I was tall and willowy," remarked the girl who likes daisies. "Do you think I look like a willow tree?"

"No; you look like a chestnut," retorted the savage young man in the loud vest.

"Ah, good morning, Chesterfield," said the M. D. "How are you this morning?"

"I'm sorry to say," rejoined the polite Chesterfield, "that I'm feeling remarkably well this morning."

In the heart of the great pine forest we found the old man sitting by his cabin door.

"But it is so quiet here," we said, "it is a wonder you don't feel lonesome."

The old man dropped his cornucop to his astonishment.

"Quiet, did you say? Why, boss, I had a wife, a mule on a phonograph."

"A man who tells me how his wife wants me to cut his hair makes me tired," said the barber at the second chair, after the customer had departed.

"I want a man to tell me how he wants his hair cut, not his impressions of his wife's views."

"It can't be helped," replied the boss barber. "Once when I went to a house to cut a man's hair he called his wife into the room to tell me how to do it."

The purchaser of the horse rushed back to the dealer in anything but a peaceful mood.

"Take back this beast," he demanded, at the same time brushing the mud from his hair.

"What is the matter?" said the surprised dealer. "Didn't I tell you this horse was not afraid of automobiles?"

That's just the trouble. He wasn't afraid of them and almost every one we met ran into him."

FACTS AND FINDINGS.

Russia has 86 general holidays in a year.

In England one man makes a fortune to eight that become bankrupt.

At least two-fifths of the companies promoted annually in England fail.

In 12 marriages out of every 100 one of the parties has been married before.

Blue coral, which is probably the most precious kind, is obtained in the Bay of Benin.

The average birth-rate for Europe shows that for every 100 girls 106 boys are born.

Every year between 60,000,000 and 70,00